

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a novel scientific approach to determine whether a compound has anti-inflammatory activity. In particular, the novel assays allow the screening of compounds for the purposes of prophylactic and therapeutic use in treating or ameliorating the symptoms of T-cell, macrophage or neutrophil mediated diseases in mammals.

In particular, the invention is based on the measurement of the capacity of a substance being an oil or fat, an alcoholic extract of an oil or fat, a biologically active component of an oil or a fat, or a preparation comprising an oil or fat, to suppress the activity of T-cells, macrophages or neutrophils in humans or animals in response to chemical and/or biological agents that activate these cell types. Measurements are made either *in vivo* (eg in mice) or in an *in vitro* preparation of human T-cells, macrophages or neutrophils, or a cell line derived therefrom.

The substance is, in particular, emu oil or an ethanolic extract thereof.

Therapeutic compositions and methods are also disclosed.